

QUESTION NO. 4

4. Are you in favor of amending the constitution to provide for a four-year term for governor, the first of which terms shall commence in 1975, and provided that the governor shall be elected in November of the nonpresidential election years, starting with the election in 1974. Further, provided that no person may serve consecutively as governor for more than two terms? YES ☐ NO ☐

NOW, the New Hampshire governor is elected to a two year term in each even numbered year and there is no limit on the number of terms he may serve.

IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, governors will, beginning with the 1974 election, be elected for a four year term on each even numbered nonpresidential election year, and no person may be governor for more than two consecutive terms.

**IMPORTANT
BE SURE
TO READ
THIS PAMPHLET**

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The legislature appropriated money for the preparation and distribution of this pamphlet to assist and inform the voters so that they can better understand what the proposed amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution will do. It was prepared at the order of and with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

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VOTERS' GUIDE

TO AMENDMENTS PROPOSED
TO CONSTITUTION OF
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY THE 1969 AND 1970
SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL COURT

To Appear on a Special Ballot at the Election
on November 3, 1970

TO THE VOTERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:

This pamphlet was ordered, prepared and distributed, at the expense of the State, by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

Its purpose is to help you, when you vote on November 3, 1970, to understand four proposed amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution which were approved by the Legislature.

PLEASE REMEMBER: In order to amend the Constitution, two-thirds of the people voting on an amendment must vote Yes. A simple majority will not amend the Constitution.

At the November 3, 1970 Election you will receive a separate, non-partisan ballot on which you will be asked to answer four questions, which summarize these proposed amendments. You answer by voting Yes or No, as you choose.

QUESTION NO. 1

1. Are you in favor of amending the constitution by abolishing the current provisions for paying legislators two hundred dollars for a two-year term plus mileage and by establishing, instead, a legislative compensation commission, appointed by the governor and council and the supreme court, to biennially set the compensation and amounts of expense allowances for members of the general court; provided that the current ninety-day limit of days for which mileage may be paid shall be retained as a limit on payments of compensation and expense allowances for legislative days (the limitation of July first for stopping of mileage payments being eliminated) and that additional expense allowances may be paid for fifteen legislative days of a special session and may be paid on nonlegislative days spent on legislative business provided by the general court?

YES

☐

NO

☐

SINCE 1889 members of the legislature have been paid two hundred dollars and the speaker and president two hundred fifty dollars as compensation for each two year term. They cannot be paid for expenses other than mileage. Mileage payments cannot be made for attendance at regular sessions of the legislature after ninety legislative days or the first day of July following the biennial assembly of the legislature, whichever occurs first. In the event of a special session members receive three dollars per day as compensation, plus the usual mileage allowance, but only for a period of fifteen legislative days.

IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, the fixed two hundred and two hundred fifty dollar pay will be eliminated. Instead there would be created a legislative compensation commission composed of seven nonlegislators appointed, three by the governor and council and four by the state supreme court. The commission would establish biennially, before the time for filing for election, the pay and the unit amounts of expense allowances (which shall include, but not be limited to, mileage expense) to be paid to the members of the legislature. The provision preventing payments after the first day of July would be eliminated. Compensation would be paid for attendance at up to ninety legislative days of the two year term so that legislators could be paid compensation and expenses for no more than ninety days whether they meet each year or only every two years. In case of a special session expenses would only be allowed for a period of fifteen legislative days as is presently provided.

For the 1971 session the pay and expense allowance would be set by the commission after the November 1970 election and before the legislature convenes in January 1971.

QUESTION NO. 2

2. Are you in favor of amending the constitution by requiring civil officers now named in the constitution to swear or affirm to bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America as well as to the state of New Hampshire and to support the constitutions thereof?
- YES ☐
- NO ☐

NOW, officials of the state are required to swear or affirm their allegiance to the state of New Hampshire and their support of its constitution. There is no reference to the United States of America or its constitution in the present oath of office.

IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, the oath administered to officials of the state would require them to swear allegiance to both the United States of America and the state of New Hampshire and to support their respective constitutions.

QUESTION NO. 3

3. Are you in favor of amending the constitution to provide that the legislature shall meet annually and that each member shall receive mileage payments for attendance at regular sessions for no more than ninety legislative days during the two years for which he is elected?
- YES ☐
- NO ☐

NOW, the constitution directs that the legislature assemble in January every two years (biennially) and at such other times as it deems necessary. A second provision limits the number of days and period during which legislators may receive mileage payments for attendance at regular sessions of the legislature to ninety legislative days or the July first following a biennial assembly, whichever occurs first. In short, the legislature does not currently meet annually because (1) the constitution does not expressly direct it and (2) members cannot be paid mileage allowance for travel to legislative sessions after July first of the first year of their two year terms.

IF THE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED, the legislators would still be elected for a two year term but would meet annually. The limitation that legislators may be paid mileage for only ninety legislative days of regular sessions will be retained, but the July first deadline will be removed, so that they could then use the ninety mileage payments any time during the two year period.

Nothing in the proposed amendments would alter the legislature's power to meet in special session and be paid mileage and per diem for the fifteen days thereof or to be paid mileage for attendance at committee meetings or on other legislative business on nonlegislative days.